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TO: Social Work Board Chairpersons and Administrators

FROM: Donna DeAngelis, Executive Director

DATE: November 3, 2009

SUBJECT: Examination Fee Increase

At the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) 2009 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly last week, the Delegates voted to approve an examination fee increase to \$230 for the Associate, Bachelors and Masters examinations and \$260 for the Advanced Generalist and Clinical examinations, effective January 1, 2010. Many factors were taken into consideration by the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors in recommending this increase. There was serious consideration and discussion by the Delegates, who then approved the proposed fees by a vote of 36 for and 16 against.

The most important factors in recommending the fee increases were the validity and security of ASWB's examination program and the amount it costs to maintain it. The social work licensing examinations meet the highest psychometric standards, and the cost of maintaining these standards increases as the cost of the contracted services, and travel expenses for volunteers rise. In 2008, the ASWB examination program was evaluated by Dr. Gregory Cizek, an independent psychometrician, and found to be valid, reliable and legally defensible. At last week's Annual Meeting Delegates heard from Dr. John Fremer of Caveon, a testing security firm, who reported on the results of an examination security audit that he conducted, along with recommendations for increased security measures. Because the association remains committed to continuing to meet its legal responsibilities to member boards and to social work examination candidates to maintain a high quality testing program, the ASWB Board of Directors approved the Finance Committee recommendation for a fee increase in order to have the funds necessary to maintain the quality and legal requirements of a licensure exam program and adequately address the recommendations from these two evaluations. The last ASWB exam fee increase occurred in 2000, effective in 2001.

We appreciate your cooperation in implementing this fee increase. The ASWB website, www.aswb.org, has been updated with the new fees and revised *Candidate Handbooks* will be available in December. We will also be providing you with detailed information for you to give your licensure candidates, and ASWB staff will be available to directly answer candidates' questions and concerns. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.